

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 02771

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USIAEA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, TECH, IAEA, TW
SUBJECT: ROC NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS

1. VICTOR CHENG REQUESTED MEETING WITH MISOFF TO SUMMARIZE, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR TAIWAN MARCH 18, THE RESULTS OF HIS MEETINGS MARCH 17 WITH IAEA SAFEGUARDS STAFF. HE GAVE MISOFF COPY OF (A) CHEN-HWA CHENG'S MARCH 4 LETTER TO L. THORNE OF IAEA OUTLINING 6 STEPS TO SUPPLEMENT IAEA SAFEGUARDS AT TRR AND (B) MARCH 17 SEVEN-PARAGRAPH REPORT ON THAT DAY'S DISCUSSION WITH IAEA ON INCREASED SAFEGUARDS AT TRR. COPIES BEING POUCHED TO MENZEL, ACDA.

2. CHENG SAID THAT IAEA DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT MANPOWER TO MEASURE ALL 181 PARTIALLY SPENT FUEL ELEMENTS WHICH PLANT OPERATOR WANTED TO PUT BACK INTO TRR. THEY ESTIMATED 100 MEASUREMENT JOB WOULD TAKE TWO PEOPLE MORE THAN ONE MONTH TO COMPLETE. THIS MANPOWER PROBLEM IS NOTED IN MEETING MINUTES (ITEM B PARA 1 ABOVE) AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED BY THORNE TO MISOFF. CHENG THOUGHT BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR USG TO DO 100 MEASUREMENT AND
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LET IAEA MEASURE A RANDOM SAMPLE OF TOTAL. HE HOPED USG WOULD START MAKING MEASUREMENTS BEFORE MID-APRIL.

3. MISSION NOTES ONE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROPOSAL IN MARCH 4 LETTER (ITEM A PARA 1 ABOVE) AND MARCH 17 MEETING MINUTES (ITEM B PARA 1 ABOVE). MARCH 4 LETTER PROPOSES SEALING OF REFUELING MACHINE,

WHEREAS MINUTES SAY "THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS FOR THE OPERATOR IN SEALING THE REFUELING MACHINE SINCE IT IS REQUIRED FOR OPERATIONS OTHER THAN HANDLING OF FUEL RODS. CONFIDENTIAL

AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL BY THE AGENCY WAS TO SEAL THE INDIVIDUAL FUEL CHANNELS, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT INSPECTION OF THE SEALS WOULD BE POSSIBLE DURING OPERATION".

4. ON RELATED MATTER, CHENG NOTED THAT USG DESIRES FOR DISPOSAL OF SPENT TRR FUEL PRESENTED PROBLEMS RE TRANSPORTATION INCLUDING COSTS, LIABILITY COVERAGE AND PHYSICAL PROTECTION. ONE APPROACH WHICH HAD BEEN CONSIDERED WAS TO TRANSFER TITLE TO AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MATERIAL (I.E. SELL IT) TO THE USG AT THE PORT OF EXPORT IN TAIWAN FOR A NOMINAL PRICE.

5. CHENG ALSO INDICATED THAT A NOTIFICATION SCHEME HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON WHICH INVOLVES THE IAEA'S "PACE" PROGRAM (TO UPGRADE AND STANDARDIZE IAEA'S NON-NPT REPORTING SYSTEM) AND WHICH WOULD AVOID CONCERNS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY RAISED. LABOWITZ

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